AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original) A quilting frame apparatus comprising:

a polygonal inner frame; and

a removable polygonal outer frame configured to fit snugly around the polygonal inner frame.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polygonal inner frame is rectangular.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polygonal outer frame includes a plurality of elongate members and wherein the plurality of elongate members are configured to be connected to one another in an end to end fashion to form the polygonal outer frame.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the plurality of elongate members are connected using mortise-and-tenon joints.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein each of the mortise-and-tenon joints is secured with a bolt and nut.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a support structure, wherein the support structure provides support to the inner frame.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the support structure is adapted to allow the apparatus to be free-standing.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the inner frame includes a support pin, wherein the support structure includes a support fork, and wherein the support fork is adapted to support the support pin so as to allow the inner frame to pivot about the support pin.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a rotatable arm associated with the support structure and the inner frame.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the rotatable arm is adjustable such that a point of attachment between the rotatable arm and the support structure may be relocated to an alternative position in relation to the rotatable arm.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the rotatable arm includes a slot, and the rotatable arm is attached to the support structure with a bolt and nut, wherein the bolt extends through the slot.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the rotatable arm is configured so as to permit the inner frame to be raised so as to remove the support pin from the support fork, then lowered into a space-conserving position.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

outer frame supports extending from the inner frame, wherein the outer-frame supports are positioned so as to support the outer frame during installation of the outer frame.

Claim 14 (original) A quilting frame apparatus comprising:

a rectangular inner frame having support pins on two opposite sides;

a rectangular outer frame including four elongate members configured to be connected to one another end-to-end in a rectangular shape and secured with fasteners, wherein the rectangular outer frame is adapted to fit snugly around the rectangular inner frame when the fasteners are tightened;

a free-standing support structure including two support posts adapted to support the rectangular inner frame by the support pins; and

adjustable arms connecting the rectangular inner frame to each of the support posts, wherein a viewing angle of the rectangular inner frame may be adjusted by adjusting a relative position of each adjustable arm with respect to a point of connection between that adjustable arm and its corresponding support post.

Claim 15 (original) A method comprising:

laying at least one layer of material over a polygonal frame;

placing a first elongate member against the at least one layer of material such that the at least one layer of material is sandwiched between the first elongate member and a surface of the polygonal frame;

placing a second elongate member against the at least one layer of material such that the at least one layer of material is sandwiched between the second elongate member and a surface of the polygonal frame;

fastening an end of the first elongate member to an end of the second elongate member; and

attaching additional elongate members to the first elongate member and second elongate member so as to secure the at least one layer of material to the polygonal frame.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the fastening further comprises:

attaching a mortise associated with the first elongate member to a tenon associated with the second elongate member.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

securing the mortise and tenon with a fastener.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

adjusting a tension with which the at least one layer of material is secured to the polygonal frame by adjusting the fastener.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sewing through the at least one layer of material.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

tying an edge of the at least one layer of material to at least one elongate member so as to prevent the at least one layer of material from coming into contact with a floor.